

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 14, 16 and 40 have been objected to because of various informalities. Claims 14 and 16 have been amended. Claim 40 has been cancelled. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 40 have been objected to as being substantial duplicates of claims 1 and 4, respectively. Claims 18 and 40 have been cancelled.

Applicants' claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The phrase "bellmouth-like" caused the rejection. The phrase has been deleted from the claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 9-11, 13-14, 16 and 18-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Chou (US 5,169,290). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' Fig. 2 shows a fan blade of a centrifugal fan. As shown, asperities 6 are located along the outer curve of the blade. When asperities are formed along the outer curve of the fan blade, the inside of the asperities becomes negative pressure. Thus, airflow adheres to the surface of the blade from inlet to outlet. Thus, by having the asperities on the outer curve of the blade, separation of airflow is prevented.

Applicants' claim 1 now recites:

... each of the plurality of blades has a plurality of
asperities on an outer curved surface thereof ...
(emphasis added)

The Official Action acknowledges that AAPA does not show asperities. Thus, the Official Action combined AAPA with Chou. While Chou discloses asperities, Chou's asperities are not on an outer curved surface of Chou's blades. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claim 18 has been cancelled.

The dependent claims are patentable over the art of record by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

Claim 42 is newly added and recite a feature which is illustrated and supported by, for example, Applicants' Fig. 2. No new matter has been added.

Claims 43 is also newly added and is supported by the word "bellmouth" which originally appeared in claim 1. No new matter has been added.

Claims 4, 5, 31-33, 35, 37 and 39-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) by combining AAPA and Chou with Nagai (US 4,647,271). Claims 6-8 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Chou. These claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

Claims 1 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda (JP 2002-168194) in view of Chou. Matsuda, however, also lacks any disclosure of asperities.

Claim 36 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda in view of Chou and further in view of Nagai. Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Chou.

Claim 38 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Chou and further in view of Nagai.

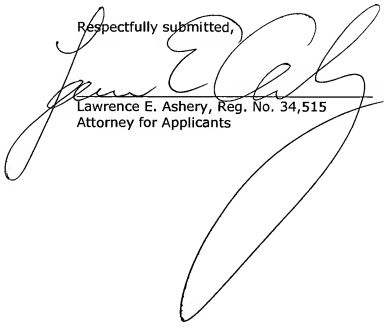
Claims 30 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Chou and Nagai. These claims, however, are all patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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